REDUCING LOCALIZED DEFLECTION IN THE BODY OF A BODY-ON-FRAME VEHICLE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method for reducing localized deflection in the body of a body-on-frame vehicle are provided through use of a vehicle body having a localized portion thereof that deflects locally and contacts the frame, for resisting further localized deflection of the localized area of the body when the operating load is applied to the localized area of the body. The localized area of the body forms a localized gap between the frame and the localized area of the body, when the body is mounted on the frame in a spaced relationship thereto, that closes and allows the localized area of the body to contact the frame. The apparatus exceeds the requirements of FMVSS 225 for limiting maximum allowable deflection under simulated operating loads applied through a test fixture anchored to child restraint seat anchor points of a seating structure attached to the vehicle body.